

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 144

To change the date for regularly scheduled Federal elections and establish
polling place hours.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 24, 2005

Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. CORZINE) introduced the following bill; which
was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

A BILL

To change the date for regularly scheduled Federal elections
and establish polling place hours.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Weekend Voting Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. CHANGE IN CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION DAY TO**
6 **SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.**

7 Section 25 of the Revised Statutes (2 U.S.C. 7) is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 “SEC. 25. The first Saturday and Sunday after the
10 first Friday in November, in every even numbered year,

1 are established as the days for the election, in each of the
 2 States and Territories of the United States, of Represent-
 3 atives and Delegates to the Congress commencing on the
 4 3d day of January thereafter.”.

5 **SEC. 3. CHANGE IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION DAY TO SAT-**
 6 **URDAY AND SUNDAY.**

7 Section 1 of title 3, United States Code, is amended
 8 by striking “Tuesday next after the first Monday” and
 9 inserting “first Saturday and Sunday after the first Fri-
 10 day”.

11 **SEC. 4. POLLING PLACE HOURS IN CONTINENTAL UNITED**
 12 **STATES.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—

14 (1) PRESIDENTIAL GENERAL ELECTION.—

15 Chapter 1 of title 3, United States Code, is amend-
 16 ed—

17 (A) by redesignating section 1 as section
 18 1A; and

19 (B) by inserting before section 1A the fol-
 20 lowing:

21 **“§ 1. Polling place hours in continental United States**

22 **“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:**

23 **“(1) CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES.—The**
 24 **term ‘continental United States’ means a State**

1 (other than Alaska and Hawaii) and the District of
2 Columbia.

3 “(2) PRESIDENTIAL GENERAL ELECTION.—The
4 term ‘Presidential general election’ means the elec-
5 tion for electors of President and Vice President.

6 “(b) POLLING PLACE HOURS.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each polling place in the
8 continental United States shall be open, with respect
9 to a Presidential general election, beginning on Sat-
10 urday at 6:00 p.m. eastern standard time and end-
11 ing on Sunday at 6:00 p.m. eastern standard time.

12 “(2) EARLY CLOSING.—A polling place may
13 close between the hours of 12:00 p.m. (midnight)
14 and 5:00 a.m. local time as provided by the law of
15 the State in which the polling place is located.”.

16 (2) CONGRESSIONAL GENERAL ELECTION.—
17 Section 25 of the Revised Statutes of the United
18 States (2 U.S.C. 7) is amended—

19 (A) by redesignating section 25 as section
20 25A; and

21 (B) by inserting before section 25A the fol-
22 lowing:

23 **“SEC. 25. POLLING PLACE HOURS IN THE CONTINENTAL**
24 **UNITED STATES.**

25 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 “(1) CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES.—The
 2 term ‘continental United States’ means a State
 3 (other than Alaska and Hawaii) and the District of
 4 Columbia.

5 “(2) CONGRESSIONAL GENERAL ELECTION.—
 6 The term ‘congressional general election’ means the
 7 general election for the office of Senator or Rep-
 8 resentative in, or Delegate or Resident Commis-
 9 sioner to, the Congress.

10 “(b) POLLING PLACE HOURS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each polling place in the
 12 continental United States shall be open, with respect
 13 to a congressional general election, beginning on
 14 Saturday at 6:00 p.m. eastern standard time and
 15 ending on Sunday at 6:00 p.m. eastern standard
 16 time.

17 “(2) EARLY CLOSING.—A polling place may
 18 close between the hours of 12:00 p.m. (midnight)
 19 and 5:00 a.m. local time as provided by the law of
 20 the State in which the polling place is located.”.

21 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

22 (1) The table of sections for chapter 1 of title
 23 3, United States Code, is amended by striking the
 24 item relating to section 1 and inserting the fol-
 25 lowing:

“1. Polling place hours in continental United States.
“1A. Time of appointing electors.”.

1 (2) Sections 871(b) and 1751(f) of title 18,
2 United States Code, are each amended by striking
3 “title 3, United States Code, sections 1 and 2” and
4 inserting “sections 1A and 2 of title 3”.

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